CONAN DOYLE WITH BRITISH EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION.

min and Around Assouan-A Letter Written Before the Army Left That Point-Impressions of the Soldiers in he Active Regiments.

Assouan Letter. been, this whole history of the rise of a fanatical Mohammedan state upon the upper waters of the Nile! When ally to be written find the most picturesque materia!

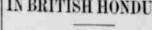
hat ever a man could wish to work in. m the day the British subaltern, this turning point of the reconquest Dongola, what a panorama of strik-Baker's defeat, Hicks' an-Egypt, Ginnes, Arguin, Toski, the in- who knows? ant frontier fighting, and now the Red and orange are the prevailing

THE RED COATS that there is a quality of soldiering IN BRITISH HONDURAS blankets, cots, hammocks, Winchester which is not to be attained by the mere IN BRITISH HONDURAS blankets, cots, hammocks, Winchester fire eater.

The Egyptian cavalry force of some six hundred men is encamped just outside the town, and marches up tomorrow along the Arasian bank of the river. They are not due in Halfa until about April 8 or 9. Horses and men are in splendid condition; many of the latter fine upstanding fellows, with aquiline faces, which recall the bas-relief of their ancestors upon the temple walls. HAT an epic it has The more I see of the Egyptian troops of all arms the more confident I feel that they will surprise the world by their behavior. To judge by their faces and bearing, they are going forward in the best of spirits,

The Staffordshires, too, turned up its story comes fin- yesterday, looking as though their week on the water had done them no harm, the historian will and in spite of being out of condition they did the hot and dusty little desert march to Shallal in excellent form. Those red granite gorges through which they passed have been threaded by empinied of Tel-el-Kebir, cried out soldlers of many nations-Cambyses' intly that "a jolly old false Persians, the Roman legions, the Ottohad arisen in the Soudan, up man conquerors, Bonaparte's flying column-and now, by the whimsical turn of fate, here are 999 of our own homely Midland boys passing under the ation, the first Suakim campaign, chisel marked cliffs and looking up at wonderfully dramatic Gordon cam- the four thousand year old hieroglyphrn, the second Suakim business with les upon the rocks; Perslans, Romans mil, and McNeil's zareba, the Aus- Arabs, French, British-who next? list contingent, the attempts upon Not the Mahdi's men, I hope. And yet,

om of the tide. If all this came from tints at that point-red fantastic rock local outbreak of fanatical feeling and orange sand. The sand winds like sone scattered desert tribes we a river through the jagged islands of an form some opinion of the fury of rock. You must stand on one of these hat original outbreak which extended islands to see the Staffordshires pass. on the south of Spain to the fron- The dust smokes up from them, and the gilt spikes and white helmits, with the Be the cause what it may, there is no gleam, as the sun strikes rifle or side izion which fills its devotees so com- arms, are all that catch the eye. Then ctely with the conviction of truth as as they pass you catch a glimpae of dust sethe creed of Mohammed. They are covered faces, the further one of the ger to give up their lives for it in four hardly to be seen through the war, and, what is more difficult, they smother. The short ranks swing past scrupulous in times of peace to with a low dull thud of feet upon sand. Calmer Howard and John McKay (all with enthusiasm, "My Country, "Tis of all its exacting and most incon- Some of the men have blue glasses to ent ritual. A creed which can in- keep out the grit. Many have pipes. me his devotees to absolutely fast from The perspiration plays strange tricks of and drink from sunrise to sunset upon their dusty faces. One stumbles



A VISIT TO THE LAND OF PER-PETUAL SUMMER.

John McKay Writes of the Trip from Midwinter to Midsummer in Central America-Personnel of the Party-



Chicago capitalists),

Those of our friends and business as-

therefore, unreliable; also on the pub-

count of the trip and our acquired allies.

For the benefit of those who may now

be contemplating, and who may here-

after decide, to undertake a similar

trip I shall commence to describe our

(late of the engineer corps, United

States army) we found guide, coun-

one's confidence, while his perfect

courtesy and witty conversation served

to establish a ready intimacy between

us. He has traveled extensively all

over the world, and there are few sub-

agreed to meet us in New Orleans, La.,

rejoiced, and commenced our prepara-

tion with a zest and tranquility hith-

erto unknown to us. In addition to a

stock of light-weight clothing we pur-

chased oilskin pommel slickers (water-

proofs) and hunting boots. These two

articles are absolutely indispensable.

Owing to the mode of transit in Cen-

tral America (which I will describe in

a future article) our outfit was packed

of the party in Chicago.

HAT the coffee industry in Honduras could by the aid of American capital and energy be deyield infinitely larger returns for the amount invested than could possibly be effected in

MARKET PLACE IN BELIZE.

Windemere, Edgar D. Peacock, P. ship and the then all-absorbing topic

Harry Price, C. Beach, F. G. Mortici, of war with Great Britain) we sung

and who combat our theories endeavor- the view of the harbor and town. The

were based chiefly on heresay, and, flying the flags of all their respective

lished accounts of interested parties, look imposing. She is one of the which were apt to be misleading, and smaller ships, used for emergency pur-

with equal unanimity we resolved to incurred. We had anticipated seeing

competent guide and interpreter, and cember 31st there was

for in the person of Col. J. H. Watts occasional showers.

Thee." Then we retired.

We arose early next morning, and,

countries. The British warship did not

thither we wended our way. It

be necessary for us to wait for about

three-quarters of an hour in order that

suitable provision might be prepared

for us. In due time we were ushered

into the "dining-room," where we were

served with fried eggs and execrable

offee. For this we paid 75 cents each.

After breakfast we called for cigars

the United States was, after due consideration and many debates, the unanimous opinion of sereral enterprising business men. These men are Maj. A. Edgewater, I. W.

rifles, revolvers and like things.

On Sunday afternoon, January 19, we sighted Belize, British Honduras, and shortly after sundown we anchored in the harbor, about a mile distant from the shore. The Breakwater had one passenger for this port, Mr. Franklin of the British colonial service, who was returning from England, where he had spent a seven months' leave of absence. The custom-house officials came on board and checked his baggage, after which he was permitted to go ashore. An officer from H. M. S. Rambler, which was anchored about 100 yards distant, was then rowed alongside, and inquired, with a marked cockney accent: "'Ave you any 'post' for the Rambler, don't you know?"

And Purser Grant, of the Breakwater, roared in reply: "Naw; inquire at Belize."

The officer did not vouchsafe a good

So, in exuberant spirits, and full of patriotic fervor (occasioned, no doubt, by the proximity of the British war-

How Silkworms Are Treated to Obtah the Tackie. One thing which a fisherman who

FOR . HE FISHERMAN.

knows anything about the art of fishing will have right is the gut and its accompaniment, the hook, says the Gentleman's Magazine.

Silkworms, it would appear, not only contribute the silk that goes to the constitution of the ordinary line, but their intestines are manipulated in the manufacture of that portion of the line to which the hook is attached. The figures quoted to me as expressing the number of silkworms annually destroyed for gutmaking I found to be almost incredible. In one manufactory alone from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 strands of gut are used annually-each strand representing a silkworm.

Holding a lank of gut in my hand, I was informed that the worms from which it strands were drawn were raised in Spanish Murcia by peasants whose sole livelihood depended upon their skill at worm farming. "The said mine host, "are imported into Murcia from Sicily and are tended by women in the most regular and careful manner. The worms are fed upon mulberry leaves at regular intervals; between the periods of feeding they sleep. This goes on for three weeks, when full growth is attained; then they are collected into buckets of diluted sulphuric acid, which kills them instantly and hardens their skins. Sold by weight to gutmakers, they are quickly operated upon to obtain the gut. The girls employed in such a manufactory break the skin, take the end of the gut between thumb and forefinger, and draw it out in a straight strand; it is then cleaned by a secret process, bleached until a beautiful silver sheen appears, sorted into lengths-thicknesses and waste strands thrown outbunched into hanks of 100 strands, ten hanks constitute a bunch, and ten bunches, or 10,000 strands, a bundle warehoused and sent out to order."

The strands of extra thickness and strength are used in salmon fishing. The production of such strands is rare, hence the high price obtainable. I sociates who did not share our views coming on deck, were delighted with minutely inspected two hanks and detected a slightly increased thickness in the strands of one bank when compared with those of the other. price of the thicker hank was £10, that of the thinner 10 shillings. So that here was a clear demonstration that it does not pay to entertain ill-favored

not a little on our own fertile imagina- poses, to carry dispatches, quell sudtions. But we were too sanguine of den uprisings of a minor nature, and success to be easily dissuaded, and so other odd jobs where little peril is The Death of Lady Surton The recent death of Lady Burton in travel together to Honduras and per-sonally investigate the possibilities for which "Britannia rules the wave," one England removes from the earth a and against successful speculation, and of those supposed to be the terror of woman of strong character and one incidentally to publish an authentic ac- her enemies and the admiration of her who saw many phases of life. As the wife of Sir Richard Burton, the scholar, knowledge of the industry in question. For a consideration of 50 cents each traveler, translator and author, she we were taken on shore in a sailing shared his journeys and hardships in craft. The heat was intense, Midthe orient and by her sympathy and winter had given place to midsummer. encouragement did much to make pos-A few days' sail in the middle of Jansible his vast labors in reproducing for journey from the general rendezvous uary had brought us to a land where English readers the literature of the of the party in Chicago.

Snow and frost and cold were uneast. She became an accomplished linguist and was the best-read woman of her time in certain directions. He in this we were more than fortunate, warmth and sunshine, varied only by destruction of many of husband's manuscripts after his death was an act We hastened to one of the general that caused much harsh criticism s atores and soon thereafter emerged, few years ago. Her movives may have selor and friend. Col. Watta is a man dressed in duck suits, white silk shirts been praiseworthy from a certain of commanding appearance, with a line and wearing wide-brimmed Panama standpoint. The eroticism of orienta open countenance that seems to invite straw hats. The proprietor (a Scotchliterature is not of a kind that should man) kindly offered to send our heavy perhaps, entitle it to wide circulation. clothing to the steamer for us, which Nevertheless, the world of intellectual we gratefully accepted, and thus, free people was horrified to learn that much from all incumbrance, we started for of the most valuable work of a great the International hotel, where, by the orientalist had been sacrificed to the jects on which the colonel is not con- recommendation of Mr. Franklin, we narrow prejudices of a woman who had versant. Col. Watts is now located in purposed breakfasting. On reaching felt the influences of wide culture with-Santa Cruz, Honduras, where he has a | the hotel, we were informed by its only out, perhaps, deriving the broad-mindlarge coffee plantation and is known occupant, a woman, that the proprie-and respected throughout the republic. edness that generally results there The heroic treatment she ex Therefore, when Maj. Edgewater an- eys and vanished. There was only one from. pended upon her husband's unpublishnounced to us that the colonel had other so-called hotel in the town, and ed manuscripts created so much unfavorable comment that Lady Burton and thereafter accompany us, we were kept by a Spaniard, who politely intiretired from the world and passed her mated to us that the honor of our cuslast years in seclusion. She never tom being wholly unexpected it would



wavered in her belief that she had act-

ed with the highest regard for the in-

terests of the community in destroying

Sir Richard's translations. - New York

in steamer trunks, and thus, with the and as the flavor was good and the A letter written and mailed in Jedpurchase of railroad tickets to New Or- price reasonable we purchased 1,000. đah, Arabia, will be delivered in New leans, our preparations were conclud- This moved the Spaniard to contrition, York twenty-one days later.

There are 3,485 miles of distance tween the seat of government of Spair and that of the United States.

Shanghai may be reached from New York via London in fifty-one days; via San Francisco in thirty-one. A traveler by mail routes may cover

the distance between New York and San Domingo City in nine days. Singapore may be reached from New York via London in thirty-seven days via San Francisco in forty-two days. A traveler from Rangoon to New York by the most direct route will accomplish the journey in thirty-four

A traveler by the most expeditious mail route may traverse the distance between New York and Rome in eleven

There are seven hundred miles of travel before the railroad passenger who starts from St. Louis to go to New Orleans. Colored emigrants starting from

Washington to Monrovia, in Liberia. yould have before them a voyage of 3.645 miles.

It is said that the pilgrims to Mecca starting from Washington city, would have to travel 6,598 miles in order to reach the Caaba. The voyage between New York and

delaide, in South Australia, via London, requires fifty-nine days; via San Francisco thirty-four days.

A letter posted in New York will b delivered in Bangkok, Slam, forty-one days later, via London, and in fortythree days via San Francisco.

## WASHINGTON GOSSIP. granddaugnter stopping with them.

INTERESTING NOTES FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

Senator Vest of Missouri Has an Interesting Family Group — The Invalid Wife of Senator George-Miss Stevenson's Marriage Other Notes.



elected, this is the last season that Senator Vest will spend at the capitle doubt but Missouri is so proud of her distinguished son that she will see that he returns to public life in

ome high position. Unlike most of the public men of the day, the senator owns his home at the capital. It is a pretty red brick in a nice part of the city, on the shady side of the street, and fronts on a parking that lends an almost rural aspect to the neighborhood. The house is not a large one, but as there are but two in the family, there is no need for a spacious mansion. The Vests are all southern people and their feelings show most plainly in their speech and ideas. Mrs. Vest was a Miss Sallie Snead, and was born at Danville, Ky., but her father and mother came originally from Albemarle county, Va., where they owned a place a short distance from Monticello, the mountain home of Thomas Jefferson, which overlooks the University of the Old Dominion. When but a young couple, these Virginians went to Kentucky, then rated almost as a far western state, and when the daughter, Sallie, married, it was to a young Kenbeen a student at Centre College, the institution of which Mr. Green, the father of Mrs, Adlai Stevenson, was the The wedding took place fiftyfour years ago, and as soon as the fes-



MRS. LIZZIE HENDERSON.

tivities were over, the young couple tled in the thriving town of Booneville. Then came the four years of war, during all of which time the anxious wife saw nothing of her husband. There are but three children in the family, one daughter and two boys. The girl is now Mrs. G. P. B. Jackson, of St. Louis, and is the mother of a son 18 years of age. The oldest boy, Alexander S., is married and living in St. Louis also, while the second son, George P. Vest, has his the father of a beautiful baby, Mary Wheeler, a lovely child with a face like a cherub, Mrs. George P. Vest is a California girl. Mrs. Senator Vest is a mall, dark woman, with simple, kindly, unpretending manners, and her ine that it is the most prominent thing in her personality. She dislikes pubwoman," not approving of the steps in nine fads of the day. An ardent southerner at heart, she retains her cordial hospitality, which was imbibed from Virginia ancestors.

The Corean Legation is being painted and put in order for the spring, but there is no news of the coming of the wife of the new minister. Mr. Sok, who reached here about three months ago, left his wife in Corea and it was expected that she would appear at the capital within a short time, but so far no announcement of any intention on the part of the minister to bring his better half has been made.

Now that the Clevelands have go comfortably settled in their country home, it is thought possible that they may decide to remain in the seclusion of Woodley, instead of returning to the city, and that no move will be made before the annual exodus to the summer cottage at Buzzard's Bay. Of course. the kindergarten school, which takes place every day at the White House, is broken up and is not to be resumed this

If there is one woman in town who will be glad to get back "way down South in Dixie," it will be the wife of balmy breeze and the sunny days of phrenological reason for peculiar conher southern home. Mrs. George is an invalid, and be to be helped about by the arm of her granddaughter, assisted important questions asked if they have by a crutch, but she has a bright dis- n correspondence department, sition and seems to ever look on the happy side of life. Though now near to her 70th year, she and her husband and vitality are concerned. All sound are as devoted a couple as they were in | teeth have nerves, and a tooth without

on Capitol Hill at the Varnum Hotel, within a block of the big, white dome all the same it is not a perfect tooth. It itself, and have been stopping at the same place for some time. Besides the things has any relation to a mental nator and his wife, there is a young condition.

Mrs. George is a woman with gray hair, blue eyes and a face that shows energy, though she has in her delicate health but small chance of any work at present. Mrs. George was a Miss Elizabeth Young, her parents living near Carrollton in Mississippi, to which state they had emigrated from Tennessee. Young George was but 19 and his bride but 18 when they went to church to be married in May, 1847, and as the marriage has been a most happy one, NLESS HE IS RE- it has put to flight all the old nonsense about unlucky weddings in the month of flowers. For years Mr. George purseed his law work and achieved great success in that line. There have been tal, yet there is lit- eleven children in the family, the eldest daughter having married a Mr. Barkeadale and now living in Grenada, Miss. The second girl is Mrs. Hemingway, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is the mother of three children, the girl, who is just budding into womanhood, being a remarkably pretty one. third daughter is now Mrs. Kate Aldridge, and lives at the old home, Carrollton, while the fourth girl, now Mrs. Leavell, resides at Houston, Texas, and is the mother of four children. fifth girl is Mrs. Lizzzie Henderson and lives at Greenwood, in Mississippi. There are four sons, Alf., Cothran, Pinkney and Joseph, three of them married and all steady men and standing high in their state. That Mrs. George is proud of her family is easy to be seen, and she points with great pride to the fact that her whole life has been devoted exclusively to her husband and children. There is nothing but the good, matronly Southern woman about her gentle personality, nothing which shows that she is in line with the new movement towards woman's privileges of the day. She has a horror of seeing a girl on a wheel, thinks it is outrageous for a woman to tuckian, George Graham Vest, who had | talk of voting, and that her only and proper sphere is to be a wife and mother. She is one of a type that dominates the south-women strong in their intellect, but with old-fashioned prejudices, prejudices which are fifty years behind the pregress of the day. She is a representative of the type which will soon cease to exist in Dixie, yet she is a woman who has done a most splendid work in raising a large family of good men and women and in making a happy home for them and for her husband.

> The wife and daughters of Senator Brice sailed for England recently, and expect to be presented to court at the Queen's drawing room. They will be back in town by the end of June, and then the family will occupy during the summer a villa at Newport, it being reported that the Ohio senator has secured the Astor House, known as

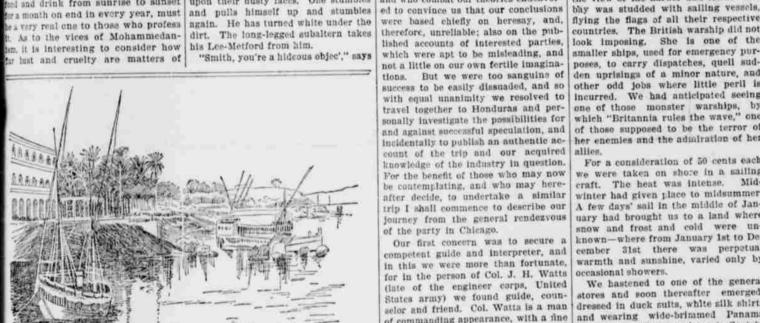
> The secretary of the treasury and Mrs. Carlisle will spend their summer at a house they have taken at Marion, a short distance from the home of the president, at Buzzard's Bay.

The announcement that Miss Julia Stevenson would Matt Hardin, of Kentucky, will place that young lady in a conspicuous position in the list of June brides. Mr. Hardin is at present in the city, stopping at the Normandie, the same hotel as that in which lives the family of the vice president. Mr. Hardin is a son of Mr. Wat P. Hardin, one of the foremost Democrats of Kentucky, and is a young minister of talent and eloquence. home in this city. Young George has The wedding will take place at the been married but three years, and is church on New York avenue, and will be followed by a small reception at the Normandie Hotel. As this was the first winter of Miss Stevenson's going out at the capital, it is to be regretted that she will so soon leave Washington. She is a beautiful girl, but her mother goodness of heart is so genu- principal charm is the gentleness of manner and kindness of heart which she shows to even strangers. Mrs. licity, is devoted to home and prides
Stevenson is the possessor of a remarkably Christian disposition, and her popularity is due to the goodness which biking and voting which are the femi- she shows in every relation of life. It is easily to be seen that Miss Julia has inherited the natural kindliness of her mother's nature. With a slender, stylish figure, dark hair over a low, broad forehead, clear complexion and large



MRS. GEORGE P. VEST. (And Little Mary Wheeler Vest.) eyes, she is an attractive girl, and her sweetness of disposition will make her an admirable wife for a minister.

J. B. asks if there are papers or magazines that make it a rule to answer senator George, for she is pining for the every question that is asked. Also, a ditions of the teeth. Answer: All publications are supposed to answer the nelogy has nothing to do with teeth, except as far as general health the days when they first plighted their a nerve must be so because the nerve is dead, therefore it cannot be sound. The family of Senator George live up It may remain fair and strong for many years and show no signs of decay, but is difficult to see how such a state of



VIEW OF ASSOUAN.

mate rather than of creed. A reigion which produces cities which contain neither drunkards nor harlots is enalthy worthy of graver consideraion than is usually given to it.

There will be one peculiarity about the campaign of Dongola. I do not appose that since the French revolutionary armies there has been any war subalterns with their precious burwhere the leaders have been so young | den. as those of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition. Kitchener, Hunter, Wingate, Rundle, Burn-Murdoch, Maxwellthey are all young for the positions which they hold. Some of them would hardly have had their companies in the rdinary routine of the British service. But they are experienced in warfare, did before them, of the value of the into the open country is intended.

dash and fire of youth. The little town of Assouan is full of he stir and bustle of warlike preparaion. The falling river has increased the difficulty of the transport, and all nores have to be unloaded some disace down, where they are entrained, and shipped once more to Shellal, above the Cataract. Captain Morgan, of the parties of Egyptian infantry and his fanatic fighting force may have gone that a man can to pass the stuff certainly be a stiff battle before Kitchthrough. Nothing is more remarkable which every one has thrown himself or possibly in June, but can hardly be the work of the expedition. I saw earlier, as far as present appearances the Seventh Egyptians, after a tiring go. lourney, working furiously at the geting out of stores until they were so dead beat that it took four of them to

life a sixty pound biscuit box. I have, I think, already mentioned that the Ninth Soudanese came over the bundred and twenty miles of desert may or may not be true. At all events h four days in their anxiety to get to the front. Everywhere one notices the the thing. Yesterday, as one of the ing walking down Beacon street, Bosdurrying to the front he received a tele- her how Dr. Howe was. "Dr. Howe?" gram from headquarters ordering him repeated Mrs. Howe, vaguely. Then, has a drop for a man who was all on he's quite well, I'm sure. I remember own to Kench to buy camels. Here fire for action. "It is quite right," said seeng in the morning paper that he prehe, when I condoled with him; "the sided at some meeting or other last aree must have the camele. I am the evening." best man to buy them. We are all working for the good of the expedition." It An oath on the was an incident that made one realize devil is in the heart.

a voice, and a dry titter runs down the

"Right, left; right, left!" cries the captain of the rear company, and once more you are looking at the white cloud with the gold spikes twinkling out of it, and the two huge black goldtopped candles which mark the junior

Of the campaign you at home probably know more than we who are at the to circulate and there is an absolute

Apropos of the "new woman" some

edge of it. Even rumors have ceased dearth of any kind of news. Some days ago we heard that Hunter has now three thousand blacks at Akasheh, and that the line between there and Sarras particularly in desert warfare, and I was securely held. The leisurely way shall be surprised if they do not give in which the cavalry is being brought an object lesson, as those Frenchmen up shows that no immediate advance There is no misconception here about Dongola being surrendered without a battle. The dervishes never surrender anything without a battle. Their best leaders, too, are at the seat of action. The present Emir of Dougola is their most valiant general. With him is Osman Azarack, the raider, "a real good sportsman," as an officer of the frontier field force assured me. Some of the out of Mahdism, but there will most ener can gain possession of the fertile province of Dongola. It may be in May

A. CONAN DOYLE.

body resurrected an old story the other day about Mrs. Julia Ward Howe that it was worth resurrecting. The story goes that Mrs. Howe was one fine morned so far as Chicago was concerned. and young officers in the force was | ton, when she met a friend, who asked grees above zero when we left Chicago, as if suddenly recollecting herself, "O, registered 65 above. In New Orleans we were joined by Col. Watts, and then, under his direction, proceeded to complete our preparations. We purchased

An oath on the lip shows that the

(good-by) he approached us and suave We left Chicago on Friday, January ly remarked, as he returned us each 50 10. The thermometer registered 20 decents, that "an error had been made in the charge for breakfast," and on our arrivel in New Orleans it

A STREET SCENE IN BELIZE,

sided over by a governor-general three months supply of general place two notes just mentioned, better and bridles, corduroy riding breeches, and a convent.

and as we were about to say "adion

Belize has a population of 6,000 souls. It is a British possession, and is prepointed by Great Britain. Besides the a three months' supply of general pro-